

*Richard Denlop, Nicholas
Deab and Lavise Bushnell*

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning, America

STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

DATE October 15, 1982 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT An Interview with Former O.S.S. Officers

DAVID HARTMAN: Before there was the CIA, America's intelligence agents worked in an organization called the O.S.S., the Office of Strategic Services. The O.S.S. was born in the early 1940s. And the man who essentially created it and built it up from the ground was a man named William Donovan. Or he is better known perhaps to those who knew him as Wild Bill Donovan.

There is a new biography out about Wild Bill. It's just been published. It's called Donovan: America's Master Spy. It's an absolutely fascinating book. It was written by Richard Dunlop. Now he himself is a former O.S.S. agent, and he is joining me this morning, along with two other former O.S.S. spies. They are Nicholas Deak, who is now a partner in the foreign currency exchange firm of Deak-Perrera, and Louise Bushnell, or Bushnell, who is now semi-retired, and she does work for the Red Cross, among her many activities.

Good morning, Dick. Nice to have you with us this morning.

RICHARD DUNLOP: Good morning, David.

HARTMAN: Mr. Deak, good to see you. Louise, good morning. Nice to have you with us this morning.

LOUISE BUSHNELL: Nice to be with you.

HARTMAN: I must say I have been -- since I became aware of your book, Dick, I've become fascinated with this, and also with some of the people who were what we now call spies -- right? -- whose names are familiar to us.

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES

Material supplied by Radio TV Reports, Inc. may be used for file and reference purposes only. It may not be reproduced, sold or publicly demonstrated or exhibited.

-2-

Dick, rattle off some of the people, would you, whose names we would recognize of this group?

DUNLOP: Well, David, some of the people that I mention in my book, Donovan: America's Master Spy, are Arthur Goldberg, the former U. N. Ambassador and Supreme Court justice; David Bruce, former U. S. Ambassador to France, West Germany and Great Britain; John Ford, the Hollywood director -- "How Green Is My Valley," among other things; Henry Ringling North of the Ringling Circus family; John Whites, the fashion designer, and, oh, Sterling Hayden, the actor.

HARTMAN: And I'll throw one more in, familiar to our viewers....

DUNLOP: Who's that, David?

HARTMAN: Julia Child.

DUNLOP: Yes, indeed.

HARTMAN: Who worked for the O.S.S.

DUNLOP: She was in Ceylon.

HARTMAN: In -- where?

DUNLOP: Ceylon.

HARTMAN: In Ceylon. So there you go.

Louise, you -- how would you describe this man? You worked perhaps more closely with him, Bill Donovan, than maybe anybody for a long period of time. How would you describe him?

BUSHNELL: Well, he had an extraordinary personality. He was very, very quiet, and he seldom raised his voice. But he was in control of every situation. And he had the sharpest blue eyes, the keenest eyes I've seen on anybody in my life. He'd just transfix you and pierce you with those eyes. It was really amazing. He was kind. He was interested in all kinds of people, the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker. He....

HARTMAN: He seemed to know no fear either, didn't he?

BUSHNELL: He knew no fear. He was very brave. He had an extraordinary memory. He worked with kings, and he worked with peasants. He was perfectly amazing from that point of view.

HARTMAN: I understand that you helped to save his life one day at the office in Washington. Tell me that story, would

-3-

you?

BUSHNELL: Well, the office had been just opened, and it was about a month later. And my job then was to take care of the people who came in to see him, his special appointments. And one afternoon at 5:30, suddenly the guard came running, and he said "There's a man with a gun who's looking for the colonel to kill him. Hide him." And then he darted off.

Well, in my office, there were only chairs, my desk and a very small file in the corner. And I sat there for a second. And I got an idea. So I went to the door that separated our offices, and I opened it. And I just went this way, because there was only one man left that he was interviewing. And he didn't even look surprised. He just looked at me. And the man left, and he walked over to me, and I told him what had happened. And in the meantime I'd had an idea, because the office hours in Washington then were 8:00 to 4:00. And by then it was 5:30, 20 to 6:00. So any way, we walked down the hall, he right behind me, and I got to the ladies' room. And I opened the door, and there were three bins. And I said, "Colonel, go to the third bin and climb up and squat so nobody will see your legs and nobody will see your head, and lock the door." The other doors were closed.

And so he looked at me, and he did exactly what I suggested. And then there was a sign that said "Out of order" in the toilet. And I took it and hung it on the outside in the hall and walked back to my office. And it was the longest 21 minutes that I've ever had to wait in my life. I could hear people running through, you know, the police and whatnot. And finally the guard came in and said "We've got him, Mrs. Bushnell; we've got him." And so then I waited a few more minutes, and I walked down and I opened the door. And I said "You can get down now; they've got the man."

So there was kind of a little grunt; not quite a grunt, but, you know, it was difficult for him to climb down. He had a little -- not paunch, but he was a little heavy.

HARTMAN: Rotund.

BUSHNELL: Rotund, a little. So he got down and he opened the door, and he looked up at me with a kind of a twinkle, and he said "Thank you very much. And would you do me another favor?" And I said "Anything." And he said "Will you never tell this story as long as I live." And I never did.

HARTMAN: And you have now.

BUSHNELL: I have now, yes.

-4-

HARTMAN: Deak, you met him in India, didn't you?

NICHOLAS DEAK: Yes.

HARTMAN: What is it that he just said he was going to do? What did he want to do when he got to India?

DEAK: Well, he flew into India from Ceylon. He had a meeting with Mountbatten. And we had a landing strip behind the Japanese lines in Burma. And our job was -- the job of our unit was to get Japanese prisoners out of Burma alive for interrogation. And he arrived in India, and without taking a rest, without losing time, he got into a small plane, one of those small observation planes; said "I want to land on that land strip, on the landing strip in Burma."

I told him, well, general, that will be very dangerous, because you might be captured, and that will be the end of the O.S.S., and all the information you have, you cannot risk that. He said "Don't worry my son. I always have a pill with me. If they capture me, they don't get anything out of me." And he got into the plane.

I noticed that the people who were with him were worn out. He wore out everybody around him. And he had tremendous drive; was a soft-spoken fellow. Actually, I spent four years in the O.S.S., and it took me three years to meet him. But that made an impression on you.

HARTMAN: And he did to this day, obviously, or you wouldn't be sitting here.

DEAK: And he flew into Burma and came back.

HARTMAN: Is being a spy what it's cracked up to be? The movies have created an image of what the life of a spy is like. Is it anything like the glamorous image that we get of spying, do you think?

BUSHNELL: I wouldn't call it glamorous at all. I don't know really why there is so much glamour attached to it, because it's quite serious work, scary work. Some of it's humdrum; some of it's repetitive. And then you can find yourself in situations that can be very difficult.

I don't know whether these gentlemen agree with me, but this is my impression. I've never understood why it's so glamorous.

HARTMAN: Richard?

-5-

DUNLOP: Well, Louise is right right. A good part of it is just having a good head, a level head, and having common sense and ability to perhaps live another life within the life that you presumably are living.

HARTMAN: Richard, thank you very much. Nicholas Deak, thank you for joining us. Louise Bushnell, thank you. And I guarantee you, this is a fascinating look at something that most of us know so little about.

And thank you all for joining us this morning, giving us a glimpse at your other lives of earlier days. Thank you all very much.